

August 30, 2005

Dear Law Enforcement and Justice Partners:

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) has been working hard to design its 2005 Regional Conference Series to meet your needs for the latest information on grants administration, federal authorizations and appropriations, and law enforcement and justice trends. The first regional was to be held in New Orleans on September 13-14, just two weeks away.

As New Orleans and its surrounding areas have experienced unprecedented flooding and destruction from Hurricane Katrina, the BJA South Central Regional Conference in New Orleans has been cancelled. This decision was made following the city's levees breaking; federal government operations officially closing; critical infrastructure completely disrupted; and a Federal Emergency Management Agency official declaring Katrina the "most significant natural disaster to hit the United States."

BJA will work with the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) to identify a new event location for early 2006, and will provide you with details in upcoming weeks. Please note that hotel reservations you had for the New Orleans Marriott Convention Center are automatically cancelled; however, you will need to cancel any flight arrangements you might have made. For questions or issues regarding the South Central Conference, do not hesitate to contact Marilyn Bassett-Lance, NCJA Sr. Staff Associate, at (202) 628-8550 or mbassett@ncja.org.

Until we meet at the regional, please join with BJA staff in finding ways to help support the citizens and communities so tragically affected by Katrina.

Sincerely,

Domingo

Domingo S. Herraiz
Director
Bureau of Justice Assistance
Office of Justice Programs
U.S. Department of Justice